UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/26110
19 July 1993
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 15 JULY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation of 14 July 1993 concerning events on the Tajik-Afghan frontier.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Y. VORONTSOV

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Annex

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation of 14 July 1993

On 13 July armed formations of irregular forces of the Tajik opposition and Afghan Mujahidin, numbering more than 200, violated the frontier and from Afghan territory made a large-scale attack on the 12th frontier post of the Moscow border detachment of the group of Russian border troops in Tajikistan. The irregular forces pillaged and burned the village of Sarigor in Tajik territory.

The forces of the Russian border troops and units of the 201st Russian Infantry Division, supported by the government armed forces of Tajikistan, managed to repel the attack decisively. They sustained casualties, both dead and wounded, including among the civilian population.

In this connection, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation expresses a strong protest to the authorities of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, since it regards this attack by bandits launched from Afghan territory as an act of aggression against the Russian border troops and against the Republic of Tajikistan, a sovereign State member of the Commonwealth of Independent States, a Member of the United Nations and a country with which the Russian Federation has close treaty relations.

The responsibility for this act of banditry lies squarely with those extremist groups in Afghanistan which are trying by all possible means to obstruct the process of stabilization in Tajikistan and this country's advancement along the path of national reconciliation and peace.

We again appeal to the leaders of Afghanistan with the urgent request that they immediately take all necessary measures to prevent such action in the future.

At the same time, the Russian side again urgently proposes to all the political groups in Afghanistan that they abandon their irresponsible policy aimed at interfering in the internal affairs of Tajikistan.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation is authorized to state that the Russian border troops and the 201st Division stationed in Tajikistan will take the strongest action and, in order to protect the Tajik-Afghan frontier in accordance with the obligations of the Russian Federation, will use the entire arsenal of military means available to them. They have the legal right to take appropriate retaliatory measures in the event of provocation, the perpetrators of which must realize the inevitability of retribution for any encroachments on the lives of Russian servicemen or other Russians.

Pursuant tc the provisions of the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan, the Russian side reaffirms its readiness to provide Tajikistan with any assistance it may require, including military assistance, on the basis of the

exercise of the right to collective defence under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

In the Russian Federation it is considered that, as regards the situation on the Tajik-Afghan frontier, the moment has come when the international community as a whole must adopt a responsible and realistic approach towards those forces which flagrantly violate the norms of international law, infringe the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Tajikistan and threaten the stability and security of the entire central Asian region.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation expresses its deep sympathy to the families and friends of the slain Russian servicemen and the citizens of Tajikistan.